

e. 15,280

S. 15,519

Front Editor Other

Page Page Page

Date:

X Dec 6, D. Vietnam
X Ag 2

CPYRIGHT Checking on the CIA

The recent recall of the chief of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in South Viet Nam has aroused new demands for some kind of congressional check on the reliability and efficiency of that agency.

Secrecy is vital to the effective functioning of any intelligence organization. The question that is again being raised, however, is whether Congress has gone too far in pulling down the curtain on every phase of the CIA's operations.

The CIA is accountable solely to the president. The information it collects is made available to the Defense and State Departments. Presumably it is a part of a team and contributes information essential for defense purposes and for the formation of foreign policy.

But there have been a number of incidents that have aroused doubts about both the efficiency of the CIA and whether it is playing too large a role in policy making.

Conflicts between top representatives of CIA, the State Department

and the U. S. armed forces in South Viet Nam are presumed to have been the reason why the CIA chief was recalled to Washington. Earlier the CIA's role in the Bay of Pigs attack on Cuba and its responsibility for failure to correctly assess the extent of the Russian military build-up in Cuba a year ago contributed to doubts about the wisdom of the hands-off policy adopted by Congress.

Senator Eugene McCarthy (Dem., Minn.) has introduced a resolution calling for the creation of a special nine-member committee of the Senate to make a thorough study of the CIA between now and Jan. 1.

Such an investigation probably would be helpful. It might indicate whether there is need for a more permanent "watch dog" committee being established.

Certainly the public generally and many members of Congress would feel more comfortable about the CIA's operations if they had the word of nine members of the Senate that their doubts are baseless.